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Now, the bearing of what I said in the beginning, as to the expression on the faces of several hundred photographs of soldiers which I had examined, becomes plain. They are engaged in one of the most barbarous of all occupations, and it could not be possible for them to wear in their expressions joyousness or nobility, such as they would were they inspired by nobler pursuits.

There are multitudes of people who think war can never be done away with, but such people are in error. Causes are at work continually that are diminishing wars. *Human nature is changing for the better.* Human sympathy is growing all the while, and an enlarged and enlightened human sympathy is making war less and less possible.

We can help along this change in human nature by culture in the right direction, by the culture of reason, of self-control, of a sense of justice. But whether we will or not, it goes on by a process of evolution, only more slowly; and we may confidently hope that finally any occupation which like war gives to the face a more or less animal expression will be entered into with greater and greater reluctance, and finally, as Tolstoy says, men will refuse to enter it altogether. If men refuse to follow this pursuit, wars must at once cease; and when they cease, new resources worked out by reason and common sense will take their place. Then mankind will wonder why so long they labored under the delusion that human nature could not change.

A Practical View of Peace.

BY JOHN CROSBY BROWN.

Is anything practical being accomplished by the Conference at The Hague? I want to say frankly and fully that I thoroughly believe, from my own experience in the past, that the results that we all hope for will sooner or later follow from what is taking place at The Hague at the present time. I can best show my reason for this faith by a homely illustration.

A good many years ago, in my early business life, when the merchant really existed as a part of the commercial machinery of the world,—I am sorry to say he is now passing away very rapidly,—the merchants of my acquaintance were very intelligent, very tenacious of their own rights, and always spoiling for a fight. Each had his favorite counsel, and if one took the slightest advantage of another, or if one thought that another was taking the slightest advantage of him, counsel was at once called in, the lawyers were set to work, and there was a first-class fight. That went on for some years. It was very good for the lawyers; but somehow the merchants began to find out that, little by little, the lawyers' fees were increasing and the merchants' dividends were lessening. The lawyers were getting the money and they were getting the experience. One day a bright merchant, whom I know very well, thought it time to put a stop to that sort of thing; and so there was organized in a quiet way in the city of New York what is called the Merchants' Court of Arbitration. One after another the merchants who had difficulties with their neighbors, instead of calling in their lawyers, presented their cases before a fellow merchant, who understood the matter a great deal better than the lawyers would have done, and the result was that the lawyers' fees were

lessened, and the merchant's assets were increased. But the lawyers have lost nothing by it, let me say; instead of being the fighters of the mercantile community they have become the peacemakers, and we hope they will continue to be such.

That is exactly what has taken place among the nations of the earth. They are now waking up to the fact that there is a small class in the community who are getting all the plunder; that is, the military and the naval men and the manufacturers of military stores are getting the assets, and the bulk of the people are bearing all the burdens. It is because the world has come to this condition, in which their burdens are becoming intolerable, that we business men are looking forward with a good deal of confidence and hope to what is taking place at The Hague, as a new way out of the present difficulty.

It seems to me most significant that this movement for arbitration, or in that direction, has come from Russia. Without in any way desiring to detract from the honor due to the Czar for the manly and splendid words of his rescript, yet we can see that there have been, and are to-day, forces at work in that kingdom which, sooner or later, would force him or some successor to this very step. If any of this audience have followed the course of the Russian Empire for the last twenty or thirty years, they have noticed some things which are very significant. A little while ago the financial world was much disturbed by a continual drain of gold from the financial centres of Europe into St. Petersburg. It was said to be "to fill up the war-chest," and all sorts of other reasons were given; but one day the world woke up to find that the finance minister of Russia was quietly preparing to reform and rearrange the domestic currency of Russia, and put it into such condition that Russia could take her place among the financial nations of the world, and be in a position to trade internationally on fair terms. And that has now been accomplished. Then again, little by little, the Russian debt has been refunded so that the burden upon the people, as far as interest is concerned, is much less than it was some years ago; and now Russia may be said to be, not in absolutely first-class credit in Europe, but in very good credit; she can borrow at a rate of interest which is no discredit to any nation.

Another thing is before Russia. She has the great domain east of the mountains to take possession of, to occupy, and to civilize. For this purpose Russia needs the help of the world. Every recent utterance of the finance minister of Russia has been looking toward the removal of disabilities upon foreigners, and the attraction of foreign capital into Russia for the development of her great country. Russia, financially and commercially speaking, is at the present time in exactly the position which this country held thirty years ago. She is holding out her hands for the capital of the world to come and help her take possession of her great trans-continental empire. She has wealth of land, she has material and mineral wealth; but she needs the active capital to set that wealth at work and to give occupation to her people. And she knows,—at any rate, the finance minister of Russia knows,—that as long as this threat of war continues, capital will not flow into Russia to enable her to do her beneficent work.